

THE BRITISH POST OFFICE
IN TIENTSIN.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

CLOSURE AVERTED.

We have been courteously supplied by the Secretary to the B.M.C. with the following *briefs* of the telegrams, correspondence, council meetings, &c., relating to the proposed closure of the British Postal Agency in Tientsin; with a request that it should be published.

1.—Note from Major Nathan, R.E., of the C. E. & M. Co., and the initial telegrams on the subject:—

Tientsin, Sept. 9, 1907.

Dear Sir,—With reference to our conversation, I enclose you a copy of a telegram received by the British Post Master instructing him to close the Post Office this month, and copy of a telegram I have sent to the Governor of Hongkong, for your information and any action you may care to take in the matter.—Yours etc.,

W. S. NATHAN,
Agent & Gen. Manager.

W. E. Southcott, Esq.,
Chairman, Chamber of Commerce,
Tientsin.

Enclosures (a) and (b)
(a) Stedman, Tientsin.
Close Post Office September 30th, for following, notify public.

Sept. 9, 1907.
Governor, Hongkong.

Postmaster here has received instructions from Postmaster, Hongkong, to close Tientsin Post Office this month. This will cause considerable dissatisfaction and inconvenience to British mercantile community, and I trust it will be possible to delay closing to enable further representations to be made. Understand Chamber of Commerce will consider matter immediately. If office closed this month heavy surcharges will have to be paid on letters with British stamps owing to insufficiency of notice.

NATHAN.

Sept. 9, 1907.
3.—The above correspondence was submitted to the local General Chamber of Commerce and also to the local branch of the China Association, and the following telegram was forwarded to the Governor of Hongkong on September 11, 1907, by the former body:—

Governor, Hongkong.—The Tientsin General Chamber of Commerce has been handed copy of Hongkong Postmaster General's wire to British Postmaster here dated 2nd inst. instant giving instructions to close British Post Office on Thirtieth instant. This Chamber thoroughly endorses Mr Nathan's cable to you of the Ninth instant, and at same time cannot too strongly recommend continuance of British Post Office, otherwise British Community which is the second largest in China will be greatly inconvenienced. British vested interests Tientsin larger than Chong, Ningpo, Hankow which have British Post Offices. All other foreign Great Powers have Post Offices here.

SOUTHCOOT,
Chairman.

Sept. 11, 1907.
3.—The Governor of Hongkong replied on the following day, September 12, 1907, as follows:—

Chamber Commerce, Tientsin.—Your telegram (received). Estimated deficit working Post Office twelve months from October \$7,500. Your Chamber willing reimburse half yearly instalment this Government will consent keep office open twelve months, otherwise regret close twelfth October.

GOVERNOR.

Sept. 12, 1907.
Concomitantly with the above the local Branch of the China Association, in reply to representations made by wire to the Hongkong branch, received a telegram which, by its explicit terms, confirmed the conclusion that the Government's offer was that if Tientsin would find one half of the total deficit of \$7,500, namely \$3,750, the Government would be willing to carry on for one year more. This conclusion was the basis of the next action in Tientsin, but as will be seen subsequently by the letter from the Colonial Secretary on Sept. 21, 1907, received here on October 2nd, the conclusion was wrong.

4.—On September 14, 1907, both of the British Councils met for the special purpose of discussing the situation and the above telegram which had been submitted to them by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Council's decision, as already published in the press reports of their proceedings, was as follows:—To institute a searching inquiry, if such were possible, as to the cost of the local Post Office administration; to do nothing in the matter of contributing to the guarantee until they were assured that all other measures for saving the Office had failed.

It should also be noted that at this Council meeting it was stated that the China Association had wired the matter home to the parent Association in London, urging it to take the question up; it was also suggested that as Liverpool and Manchester did a large business with Tientsin, and therefore benefited greatly by the penny post, their Chamber of Commerce should be asked to move in the matter.

This last feature of the situation was all the more important as the Councils had grounds for believing that the incoming mails were from four to five times heavier than the outgoing, and therefore that the Home people concerned with Tientsin derived four or five times the advantage of the cheap postage. It thus seemed but fair that St. Martin's Grand should be asked to bear the greater portion of the deficit which it was believed was wholly due to high cost of the re-transport of the mails from Hongkong to Tientsin.

The Councils also on this occasion asked the local Chamber of Commerce to ascertain the latest date on which a definite reply must be sent to Hongkong.

5.—The Chamber at once instituted the inquiry by telegram, and received a reply from Hongkong on September 17 as follows:—
Governor, Hongkong.
Tientsin General Chamber of Commerce thank you for telegram. Endeavouring to provide ways and means. Please reply latest date decision must reach you.

SOUTHCOOT,
Chairman.

Sept. 15, 1907.

Southcott, Tientsin.

Decision soon as possible, latest first October.

Sept. 17, 1907.

Governor.

A meeting of the Councils was at once called, as it was evident that no time could be lost if the Post Office was to be saved within the short time now available.

6.—The Councils met on September 18 and after carefully considering the whole situation decided to act as follows:—The Senior Council would at once call a meeting of the Landowners, giving the seven days' notice prescribed by the Land Regulations, "to discuss the proposed closure of the British Post Office, and if necessary to find ways and means for continuing the said office."

The Junior Council was in perfect agreement with the Senior, but found there was no time to give formal notice of twelve days (as prescribed by their Land Regulations) for a public meeting of the Ratepayers. They decided that if the Landowners of the Senior Council in public meeting authorised their Council to give the required guarantee of \$3,750, they (the Junior Council) would fall in line with the Senior, feeling assured that their ratepayers would approve their action when the urgency and importance of the situation were made known to them.

7.—We may here duly interpolate the telegram which the local Chamber of Commerce sent to the Manchester Chamber on September 19:—

Chamber Commerce, Manchester.
Protest against closing British Post Office here Twentieth October. Reason given loss of Hongkong revenue estimated seven hundred and fifty pounds sterling yearly—cost transit between Hongkong and here. Hongkong Government offers continue provision Tientsin contribute half deficit. Endeavour persuade Home postal authorities contribute instead towards this expense. Can you assist us in order to maintain penny postage? Suggest ask London Chamber co-operate. Must have reply before Twenty-Fifth September. Tientsin Chamber Commerce.

W. E. SOUTHCOOT,
Tientsin.

Sept. 19, 1907.
8.—The two Councils met on September 25, the eve of the Landowners' meeting to consider the situation up to date and to discuss the nature of the resolution to be put before the Landowners at their meeting on the morrow.

At this meeting a private telegram was confidentially submitted to the Council. It appeared to warrant the conclusion that the China Association in London was of opinion that Tientsin should put up the guarantee required by the Hongkong Government and so secure the continuance of the postal agency in the port, and then continue the agitation at Home to be relieved of the burden.

"The Councils also discussed the expediency of asking the Chamber of Commerce to join the guarantors, and thus secure the help of business men residing in the other Concessions, but it was finally decided not to do so. The resolution to be submitted to the Landowners was drafted and approved. (See below). It is to be noted that both Councils and Chamber were still under the impression that all that was asked of them was to meet half of the total deficit of \$7,500.

9.—The Landowners met on September 26 and unanimously passed the following resolution:—"In view of the fact that the Junior Council has expressed its willingness to contribute to the ratepayers of the B.M.E. that they should participate in the required guarantee, this meeting of Landowners authorises the Council to provide the guarantee required by the Hongkong Government to continue the British Postal Agency in Tientsin for year after September 30, 1907."

10.—The Secretary of the Councils the same day communicated the above resolution to the local Chamber of Commerce, and asked it to wire Hongkong at once that the required guarantee had been found.

The Chamber did so in the following telegram the next day:—

Governor, Hongkong.
As per your telegram Twelfth September Tientsin British Municipal Council fully appreciating your considerable offer have guaranteed to provide estimated 3,750 dollars half amount deficit to secure continuance of British Post Office here for one year as from thirtieth September 1907 the guarantee will be paid over whenever demanded.

SOUTHCOOT,
Chairman, Chamber of Commerce.

Sept. 27, 1907.

11.—On September 27 the following letter was received from Major Nathan:—

Tientsin, China,

27th September, 1907.

Sir,—I have noticed in the report of the meeting of Landowners held on the 16th September that it has been decided that half of the loss on the running of the British Post Office in Tientsin shall be met by an increase of taxation in the Settlement.

Under these circumstances it appears likely that the Landowners may desire to have a greater voice in the running of the Post Office than at present, and it may therefore be desirable, owing to the inconvenience of having a Post Office on private premises, that the position heretofore occupied by the Mining Company should be taken up by a public body in Tientsin, which would, I assume, be the British Municipal Council.

I shall, therefore, be glad to know the opinion of the Council in the matter, and if it is

desired to effect the change, I will approach the Governor of Hongkong with a view to the transfer of the office.—I remain, etc.,

W. S. NATHAN.

Agent & General Manager,
The Chairman,
British Municipal Council,
Tientsin.

This letter was circulated for inspection and read in Council on October 2nd, but beyond a general expression of opinion that the Post Office should continue to go on under its present administration no formal decision was reached on the subject.

12.—On October 1 the Chamber of Commerce received the following telegram from the Governor of Hongkong late in the evening.

This telegram and a letter dated Sept. 21 from the Hon. F. H. May, the Colonial Secretary, received next morning (Oct. 2), proved that every one concerned in the question had until now been labouring under a mistaken idea in thinking that we were only asked to bear half of the loss.

The Colonial Secretary's letter makes it quite clear that Tientsin was expected to bear the whole loss (\$7,500) this year, and also holds out the prospect that this sum may be increased to \$10,574 in subsequent years.

Southcott, Tientsin.
Your telegram Friday (received). I offered continue Office if 7,500 reimbursed half-yearly instalment. If refused Office closes sale stamps despatch letters Twentieth October. Delivery may continue without surcharge Thirty first December. Wire reply.

GOVERNOR.

1. Oct. 7.

The letter was as follows:—
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, September 21, 1907.
(Cable: Tientsin Oct. 7, 1907).

Sir,—With reference to your telegram of September 11 and subsequent telegraphic correspondence relative to the decision of this Government to close the Post Office at Tientsin, I am directed to confirm the Governor's telegram of 12th inst. in which you were informed that the cost to the Government by the maintenance of the Tientsin Post Office is estimated at \$7,500 per annum for the coming year, and that His Excellency could only consent to continue the conduct of this branch office if your Chamber were ready to defray this loss.

2. I am further to explain to you that when the receipts of the Tientsin Post Office together with the proposed contribution from your Chamber are credited to the revenue of this Colony they become liable to a deduction of 20 per centum like all other revenue of the Colony on account of Imperial Military charges. It would therefore be necessary in this case for you to pay a contribution of \$10,574 if the revenue of Hongkong were to be at no loss at all in respect of the Tientsin Post Office.

3. In view, however, of the short notice that this Government has been able to give you of the closing of the Office, the Governor decided to forego the additional sum that might properly have been required of your Chamber, and thus to meet as far as possible your desire to keep open a little office for one more year.

4. I am to ask that your decision in the matter of paying the contribution asked for may be communicated to me as soon as possible as the Imperial Post Office must be informed of the final settlement of the question before the 1st of October.—I am, etc.,
F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce, Tientsin.

13.—The Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce communicated the above telegram and letter early on October 2 to the Councils; special meetings of both Councils were at once called for the same evening.

The whole subject was discussed anew in the light of the above letter and the following decision was reached:

The Secretary was instructed to make the following proposal to the local Chamber of Commerce:—"The Councils of the British Concession and British Municipal Extension should each pay one fourth (1) of the estimated deficit of \$7,500 and the balance to be found by the Chamber of Commerce."

This decision was communicated to the Chamber of Commerce the next morning, and that Body at once began a canvass by circular of its members to see if it could raise the moiety required, \$3,750, by voluntary subscription.

14.—On October 12 the secretary of the Chamber communicated to the Council that it could only raise the sum of \$1,125 by subscription among the Members. The secretary said "In view of the fact that should the British Postal Agency in Tientsin be closed it would be very difficult ask the Councils to reconsider their decision with a view to guaranteeing the deficit."

Two days later he forwarded for the Council's inspection a copy of the following telegram received from Hongkong:—

SOUTHCOOT, Tientsin.
My telegram first telegraph immediate reply.

GOVERNOR.

Oct. 13, 1907.
The secretary of the Chamber also stated that he had wired a reply as follows:—

Governor, Hongkong.
Matter requiring immediate attention. Cannot reply until Tuesday.

SOUTHCOOT.

15.—On Monday, October 14, the Senior Council again met and reviewed the whole position once more. It was fully recognised that an annual subsidy of the nature of that indicated in the Colonial Secretary's letter was out of the question; but on the other hand, it might be worth a special effort on this occasion to guarantee the deficit for one year, as during that year they might make strenuous efforts to secure the permanency of the office without any subsidy. It was recognised that if the office were once closed, the charges of getting it permanently established were much smaller than they would be if it were now kept open, while the question was being agitated at Home.

The Council reached the following decision:—"Recognising the value of the British Postal Agency to the British Community, the Council votes a sum of \$5,000 in order to secure the continuance of the institution for one year from the first instant."

It was of course understood that the Junior Council would stand to its decision to command the Ratepayers of the British Municipal Extension to supply the remaining fourth (1).

This decision was communicated the following morning to the Chamber of Commerce with a request that it would at once intimate the fact to the Governor of Hongkong.

16.—On October 16 the following letter was received from the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce:—

Tientsin, 16th October, 1907.
Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your favour of 15th instant, contents of which are noted with thanks. I am directed to express the thanks of the Chamber for the generous way in which the Councils have come forward in this matter and guaranteed the necessary sum, in order to secure the continuance of the Local Postal Agency.

I have pleasure in forwarding herewith copy of telegram despatched by us yesterday to the Governor of Hongkong. The Councils may rest assured that this Chamber will take the matter up, and make every possible effort to secure the permanency of the British Postal Agency without making any further call for a subsidy on the part of the Councils.—I have, etc.,

S. GILMORE,
Act. Secretary.

Wm. McLeish, Esquire,
Secretary, British Municipal Council and Extension, Tientsin.
Governor, Hongkong.

British Municipal Council have guaranteed provide 7,500 dollars to secure continuance of British Post Office for one year as from first instant, guarantee will be paid over whenever demanded.

Despatched 15th October, 1907.
—China Critic.

(CHINA'S MINERAL WEALTH).

China is now beginning to recognise the importance of her mineral resources, and an article which appears in the P. & T. Times is of interest to those who are following the question.

Mining conditions and prospects in any country possess a strong fascination for the speculator, and in few more than in China which is known to abound in vast fields of unexploited mineral land. The mineral wealth of this empire is perhaps almost incalculable; for the resources of the country, through the combined agencies of ignorance and prejudice, still remain a sealed book, and an estimation of the possibilities of the provincial hinterlands is based solely on the rare but valuable experiments which have directly and indirectly been possible. The greatest interest has therefore attached to the publication by the Chinese Government of the conditions under which this imperfect knowledge may be extended, and when in 1904 the regulations issued were found to offer little encouragement for practical work, hopes were raised that the protests of the Powers would result in more generous privileges being accorded by the amended and permanent ones. A comparison of the preliminary regulations of three years ago with those which we have just published as the full-blown effort of U.E. Chang Chih-tung, approved by the Throne and issued as the future conditions of mining development in China, will we fear only confirm the impression that, in spite of her aspirations to the contrary, China does not intend that her mineral lands shall be developed at all, and least of all by aliens from the West.

In general principle the new regulations are identical with the provisional ones, only the principle is carried further. The whips of Solomon have, so to speak, become the scorpions of Kehoban in the hands of the venerable Viceroy and the Board of Commerce, and Ibrahim has been written in flaming letters across the portal of investors' expectations.

The new regulations are more than three times as numerous as the provisional ones, and go into details which leave little or no scope for an intelligent judgment on the part of any official, or allowance for any special conditions. Everything appears to have been thought of which experience or a too vivid imagination can associate with possible friction between Chinese and foreigners, and a possible advantage being gained by the mining promoter of any nationality. While no definite discrimination is made between natives and foreigners in regard to the sharing of profits, the privileges accorded are so hedged round with restrictions as virtually to nullify every concession yielded. To the Chinese mind, accusé of a metaphysical verbiage, the stipulations embodied in the hundred and forty-seven regulations will probably act only as a stimulant to ingenious circumvention, for none know better than the Chinese how to evade the responsibilities of the law without openly setting it at defiance.

In the new regulations the idea of foreign capital being utilized appears to have been more seriously contemplated than formerly and the reference to foreigners is more frequent and specific, the conditions of their participation being such as almost inevitably to afford Chinese an opportunity for dispensing with them whenever it might be found convenient of profitable to do so, and laying the burden of loss and responsibility almost entirely on their shoulders. The limits for prospecting and commencing work in such cases where permission to exploit is granted, are in almost all instances shortened in the new conditions, the extension of one year on preliminary work granted in the old regulations being reduced to a possible but by no means certain six months in the new. When we remember the delay, expense, and uncertainty which invariably attend the consideration of any official application in China, and the expense and

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Asile de la Sainte Enfance,
Hongkong, 3rd December, 1907. [1053]

appliances requisite even for a preliminary survey and experimental tests of any mining area, a period of two months in which to engage engineers and start operations after receiving the tardy permission for this work, is in itself a prohibitory reduction of the formerly conceded six months' grace. It would in the first instance necessitate the engagement beforehand of mining experts on the bare chance of a prospecting permit being granted, should local services not be available or justly appraised, and retaining fees, and expenses for an indefinite period. This difficulty being overcome the period of one year, only, or by special sanction a possible eighteen months is allowed for the conclusion of all preliminary work and the formation of definite plans for its continuance. The issue of prospectuses, raising of the requisite capital, the importation of the necessary plant are all apparently included in this time and the regulation is suggestive of a capacity for haste not usually associated with mining enterprises of an extensive nature. Sixty days only is allowed for the drafting and deposit with the authorities of plans in triplicate, which are to include not only geological diagrams, but explicit information in regard to underground details and possible developments which in the natural course of things could hardly be encompassed in the preliminary work; not to mention buildings and workshops which would be equally non-existent at the time.

The possibilities for interference with any mining enterprise in which foreigners are interested, outlined in Art. 40 of the principal regulation, are sufficiently forcible, quite apart from all minor considerations, to render the conditions valueless for foreign capitalists, as in China a case of alleged "loss through mismanagement" if it suited the interests of a Chinese rival or opponent to create one, might be foreseen as an every-day probability; and the apparent liberality of the clause that these points are understood foreigners may engage in mining enterprise as much as they like possesses an unconscious humour. The incidental expenses and liabilities provided for the mining promoter are so tallied up fairly costly and comprehensive, the fees chargeable on the observance of the annual formalities in regard to plans, certificates and the like representing to themselves an appreciable item when allowance for "inaccuracies" has been made.

The Articles of the regulations which will however most vitally interest foreigners in China, are those which relate to mining enterprise already in existence. It is clearly stated that all mining concerns now in operation come under the regulations 3 to 6, and we may confidently anticipate that these clauses will form the subject of immediate diplomatic negotiation, and quite possibly the foundation for considerable friction. Taken in their entirety, the regulations, principal and supplementary, are calculated to place a real and permanent check on mining development in China, the tendency of their operation being to limit the "freedom" under which alone trade can thrive, and render the resources of the country hidebound by official supervision and interference. Even Chinese, however advantageously placed by native resources, will scarcely be encouraged to launch out into extensive speculation under conditions which limit their chance of profit to individual official integrity, and offer a premium to misrepresentation, bribery and convoluted litigation.

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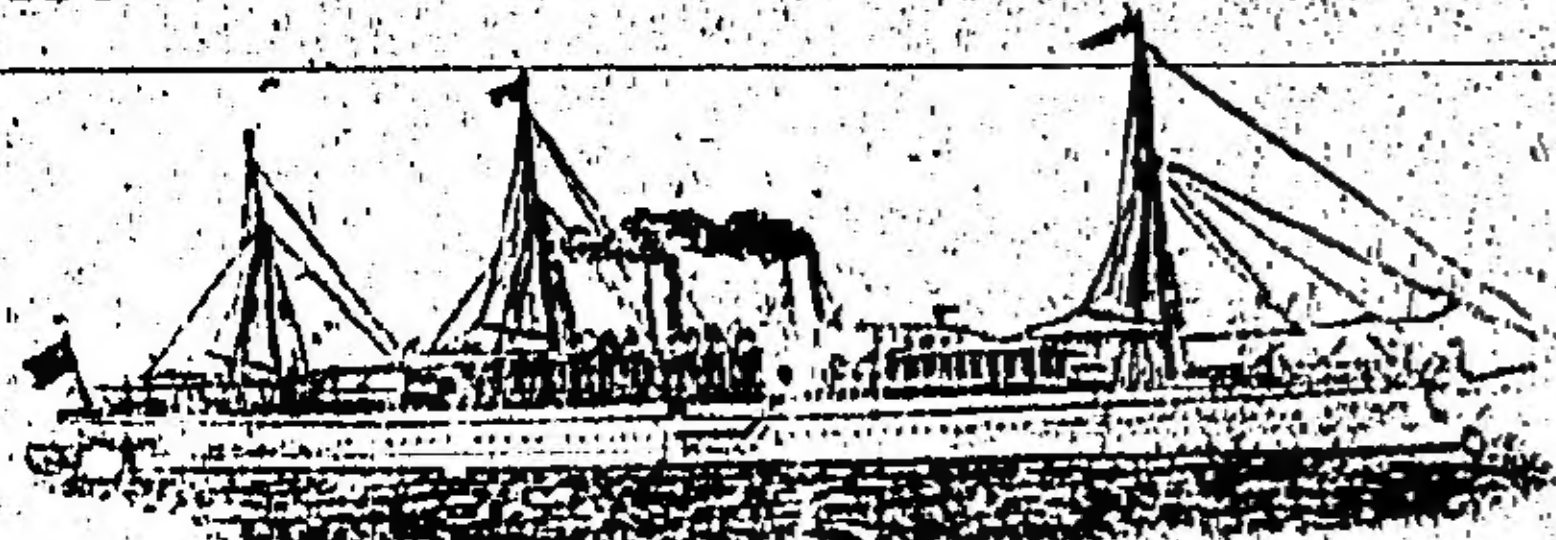
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Hongkong, 30th November, 1907.



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PASSENGER SERVICE.

RHENANIA—HABSBURG—HOHENSTAUFEN—SILESIA—SCANDIA.

HIGHEST COMFORT, ONLY
LOWER BERTHS.

Laundry on board, Doctor, Stewardsess carried.

Ports of call, NAPLES, PLYMOUTH, HAVRE, HAMBURG.
NEXT SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

Outward.

HABSBURG	21st Dec.
RHENANIA	21st Jan. 1908
HOHENSTAUFEN	22nd Feb. 1908

Hongkong, 28th November, 1907.

Homeward.

SILESIA	11th Dec.
SCANDIA	8th Jan. 1908
HABSBURG	29th Jan. 1908
RHENANIA	26th Feb. 1908
HOHENSTAUFEN	23rd March 1908

COMPAGNIE DES MESSEGERIES
MARITIMES.

FOR SHANGHAI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

THE Company's Steamship

"ARMAND BEHIC"

Captain Guionnet, will be despatched for the above Ports on or about MONDAY, the 9th December.
For Freight or Passage, apply to

J. MILLET,
Agent.
Hongkong, 2nd December, 1907.

NORTHERN PACIFIC LINE.

BOSTON STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

Connecting at Tacoma with
NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY
COMPANY.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG FOR
VICTORIA, B.C. AND TACOMA,
VIA
MOJITO, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

Steamer	Tons	Captain	Sailing
Tremont	6,000	T. W. Garlick	10th Dec. 1907
Swierick	6,232	Shotton	4th Jan. 1908
Kumerick	6,232	Cowley	18th Jan. 1908
Shawmut	6,000	E. V. Roberts	1st Feb. 1908

CHEAP FARES, EXCELLENT ACCOMMODATION, ATTENDANCE AND CUISINE, ELECTRIC LIGHT, DOCTOR AND STEWARDESSES.

* The twin-screw s.s. Shawmut and Tremont are fitted with very superior accommodation for first and second class passengers. The large size of these vessels ensures spaciousness at sea. Electric fan in each room. Barber's shop and steam-laundry. Cargo carried in cold storage.
† Cargo only.

PARCEL EXPRESS TO THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

For further information, apply to
DODWELL & CO., LIMITED,
General Agents.

Queen's Buildings, Hongkong, 16th November, 1907.

TOYO, KISEN KAISHA.

SOUTH AMERICAN LINE.

REGULAR STEAMSHIP SERVICE

BETWEEN

HONGKONG, CALLAO

AND

IQUIQUE via JAPAN PORTS

(KARATSU, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA).

With option to call at MEXICAN and other Coast ports.

Steamers Tons To sail

KATHERINE PARK 6,000 About Middle of Dec.

KASATO MARU 6,100 Sometime in March, 1908.

Taking Freight and Passengers to other Eastern and Western Coast ports of South America in connection with Steamers of the Pacific S. N. Co.

For further information as to Freight and Passage, apply to

K. MATSUDA,

Manager, York Building, Hongkong, 19th November, 1907.

STEAM TO CANTON.

THE New Twin Screw Steel Steamers

"KWONG TUNG" Capt. H. W. WALKER.

"KWONG SAI" Capt. E. S. CROWE.

Leave Hongkong for Canton at 9 every evening, (Saturday excepted).

Leave Canton for Hongkong at 5.30 every evening, (Sunday excepted).

These Fine New Steamers have unequalled Accommodation for First Class Passengers and are lit throughout by Electricity. Electric Fans in First Class Cabins.

Passage Fare—Single Journey \$4.

Meals \$1.25 each.

The Company's Wharf is situated in front of the New Western Market, opposite the old Harbour Office.

YUEN ON S.S. CO., LD.

SHUI ON S.S. CO., LD.

No. 1, Queen's Road West, Hongkong, 2nd July, 1907.

Consignees.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamer

"DELTA"

FROM BOMBAY, COLOMBO AND STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and placed at their risk in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company's Godowns at Kowloon, where each consignment will be sorted out mark by mark, and delivery can be obtained as soon as the Goods are landed.
This vessel brings on Cargo—
From London, &c., ex S.S. India.
From Persian Gulf, ex B.L.S.N. and D. & P. S. N. Co.'s Steamers.
Optional Goods will be landed here unless instructions are given to the contrary before 6 hours.
Goods not cleared by the 4th December, at 4 P.M. will be subject to rent.
No Fire Insurance will be effected by me if any case whatever.
Damaged Packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignee's and the Company's representative at an appointed hour.
All Claims must be presented within ten days of the steamer's arrival here after which date they cannot be recognised.
No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns.

E. A. HEWETT,

Superintendent.
Hongkong, 28th November, 1907.

For Sale.

Sole Agents for

HUMBER CYCLES.

TYPEWRITERS

FOR

HIRE, REPAIR & SALE.

TO CLEAR AT VERY MODERATE

PRICE.

REMINGTON,

HAMMOND,

BARLOCK.

NEW CENTURY & SUN TYPEWRITERS.

MOTOR LAUNCHES

and BOATS

FOR HIRE AT BLACK PIER.

DAY AND NIGHT PER HOUR \$3.

New Bicycles

for Hire.

NEW CYCLES FROM \$85 EACH.

REPAIR TO MOTOR BOATS, CARS,

and CYCLES UNDERTAKEN.

DRAGON CYCLE DEPOT,

No. 11, D'ARQUILLAN ST. and KOWLOON.

Hongkong, 27th November, 1907.

COLD STORAGE.

THE HONGKONG ICE COMPANY,

LTD., have now 40,000 Cubic feet of

COLD STORAGE available at EAST POINT.

Stores will be open at 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. daily Sunday excepted, to receive and deliver perishable goods.

W. K. FARLANE,

Manager.
Hongkong, 28th Nov. 1907.

HONGKONG AVERAGE MARKET PRICES.

Corrected 29th November, 1907. per cwt. per 5 lbs.

BUTCHER MEAT.

Cents.

Butter—Salted—Mel Lung Pa B.

"Comed—Ham Ngau Yuk

"Roast—Shiu

"Bread—Ngau Lam

"Soup, Tong Yuk

"Steak—Ngau Yuk Pa

"Sirloin—Ngau Lau

"Sausages—Ngau Yuk Chung

"Bullock's Brains—Know

"Tongue fresh—Ngau Li

"Comed—Ham Ngau Li

"Head—Ngau Tau

"Heart—Ngau Sum

"Hump, Salt—Ngau Kin

"Feet—Ngau Keok

"Kidneys—Ngau Yiu

"Tail—Ngau Mei

"Liver—Ngau Cou

"Tripe (undressed)—Ngau To

"Calves' Head and Feet—Ngau-chai

"Mutton Chop—Yeung Pui Kwai

"Leg—Yeung Pui

"Shoulder—Yeung Shau

"Pigs' Chitterlings—Chi cheong

"Brains—Chi Kwai

"Feet—Chi Keok

"Fry—Chi Chak

"Head—Chi Tau

"Heart—Chi Sum

"Kidneys—Chi Yiu

"Liver—Yeung Co

"Sucking Pigs, To Order—Chu Chai

"Suet Beef—Sang Ngau Yau

"Mutton—Sang Yeung Yau

"Veal—Ngau Chai Yuk

"Sausages—Ngau Chai Yuk Tong

POULTRY.

Chicken—Kai Chai

Capons, Large, Small—Sip Kai

Ducks—Ap

Doves—Pan Kau

Eggs, Hen—Kai Tai

Fowls, Canton—Kai

Hainan—Hoi Nam Kai

Geese—Ngo

Geese, Wild Shanghai—Sheng Hoi Ye

Musk Deer—Wong Keng

Hare—To Chai

Partridge—Che Khoo

Pheasant—Shan Kai

Pigeons, Canton—Pak Kup

Hoehow—Hoehow Pak Kup

Quail—Um Chun

Rice Birds—Wo Fa Cheuk

Snipe—Sa Chai

Turkeys, Cock—Fo Kai Kung

Hen—Na

Wild Ducks, Shanghai, Sulap

Teal, Shanghai, Sulap

Wild Ducks Canton—Sang Shing Sui

FISH.

Barbel—Ka Yu

Bream—Bin Yu

Canton Fresh Water Fish—Hoi Bin Yu

Catfish—Chik Yu

Codfish—Men Yu

Crabs—Hoi

Cattle Fish—Muk Yu

Dace—Sa Mang Yu

Duck—Wong Mei Lun

Dog Fish—Tui Yu

Eels, Congor—Hoi Man Yu

Fresh water—Tam Sui Yu

Yellow—Wong Sin

Frog—Tien Kai

Garoupa—Sek Pan

Gudgeon—Pak Kup Yu

Herrings—Tao Pak

Halibut—Cheung Kwan Yu

Labrus—Wong Fa Yu

Loach—Wu Yu

Lobsters—Lung Ha

Mackerel—Chi Yu

Milk Fish—Mon Yu

Mullet—Chai Yu

Oysters—Sang Hoo

Parrotfish—Kai Kung Yu

Perch—Tao Loo

Pike—Pa Pau Poong

Plaice—Pan Yu

Pomfret, Black—Hak Chong

Pomfret, White—Pak Chong

Prawns—Ming Ha

Ray—Pai Pa Yu

Rock Fish—Sak Kau Kung

Roach—Chun Yu

Salmon, (Coho) fresh water—Hoi Yu

Yellow—Wong Sin

FISH.

Shark—Sa Yu

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

His Excellency the Governor has proclaimed Friday, the 6th December, to be observed as public holiday in the Colony.

THE *Hartford Courant* contains an editorial upon the recent case of Mr. Bethell, editor of the *Korea Daily News*, in which it describes the prosecution of Mr. Bethell as an illustration of British slavish adherence to the Japanese Alliance.

It is stated that the Peking Government has sent a dispatch to H.E. Chang Ming-chi, Governor of Kwangsi province, that control and power of the Kwangsi Railway ought to remain in the hands of the Provincial Government, "in order to prevent the natives of the provinces from secretly selling in to foreigners."

THE *China Critic* learns that Major Nathan R.F., the general manager of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., will leave for Europe at the beginning of the next year, for several months' stay at home, on business and pleasure combined. The Major will fully deserve his leave, having worked hard for the past three years in Tientsin, with-at-times-the best possible health.

A CANTON dispatch announces that a number of prominent merchants there have decided to start a Volunteer Corps, in order to defend themselves in cases of emergency. The regulations of the proposed Corps are to be similar to those of Shanghai. A joint petition on the subject has been presented to Viceroy Chang Jen-chün of Canton, asking for His Excellency's patronage and support.—*N. C. News.*

A TOKIO wire, of 28th ult., to the *N. C. News* says:—M. Shipoff, formerly Russian Minister of Finance, and M. Pouitoff, chief director of the Russo-Chinese Bank, having arrived in Tokio to-day to establish relations with Japan and to settle outstanding railway questions in Manchuria, the warm reception has been given to the two visitors. It is arranged that they shall return home by way of Shanghai and Peking.

A SEVERE shock of earthquake was felt at Yokohama at 2.17 a.m. on November 2. According to the Yokohama Observatory, had both horizontal and vertical motions. The origin was not far distant and seemed to be Tokio Bay. Fortunately no special damage was sustained to Yokohama, though all were generally stopped and flower vases, tables and mantelpieces in some houses of Bluff fell, and other slight damage was sustained.

plained the situation to the petitioner in China's exclusive right to control the West River as well as all affairs in connection with her internal government, and by no means be placed under the control of outsiders. H.E. also stated that he has means to uphold that right and the people need not be in fear, and should not stir up the minds of the people.

A SAD CATASTROPHE.

A native restaurant known as the Canton Restaurant situated in Yik Hoong, off the Po, in the western suburb, was engaged by a man to entertain his friends at dinner on the occasion of the marriage of his son. The building was overcrowded with guests and others to the number of some hundred, and much excitement prevailed in the cinematograph entertainment which was given on the occasion. At about 10 o'clock in the evening, whilst the dinner and the entertainment were in progress owing to the great number of the inmates on the top floor, the walls of the building all of a sudden collapsed burying a number of persons under the debris. Assistance was at hand and persons were at once extricated from under the debris either seriously injured or killed. But, within a few minutes, another portion of the building collapsed and buried over a hundred persons. Some of the kerosene lamps, which were still alight, were broken, and ignited the smokes and flames the fire brigade proceeded to the scene and rendered assistance and succeeded in getting under control, but no sooner had done than the whole of the remaining portion of the building collapsed and this time killing or killing many more persons. The Canton Restaurant in Hospital and others arrived afterwards on the scene to carry this morning a few bodies were recovered from the ruins and others, who were wounded more or less, expected that there are still over a hundred persons under the debris. The Police have offered a reward of 100 for the fortunate victim recovered from the either dead or alive. Excellent aid rendered by the officials of the Canton Hospital and no praise could be said for their timely and energetic assistance.

RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

The amount of fares collected on travelling on the Wongshe-Koongtsi of the Canton-Hankow Railway for the month of the present month from the 1st day of the present month were as follows:—16th ult., 17th instant \$227.65; 18th ult., 19th ult., 20th ult., 21st ult., 22nd ult., 23rd ult., 24th ult., 25th ult., 26th ult., 27th ult., 28th ult., 29th ult., 30th ult., Total \$3,424.00.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPH AFFAIR.

The second lot of wireless telegrams imported by the Canton authorities arrived and H.E. the (Viceroy) has Commodore Li to proceed to W to examine the new instruments.

secure an efficient force of water police. European officers would have to be placed in command of it, and at once the British Mission would be anxious to respect Chinese sentiment, provided the Chinese gubois and launches used in the work should be under supervision of the Imperial Maritime Customs rather than under foreign naval officers. It was pointed out that the Customs had for a long time maintained an efficient service for the prevention of smuggling in Canton waters, and it seemed a simple matter for the Inspector-General of Customs to co-operate, to extend this organization to embrace a practical scheme for hunting down pirates.

HUNTING DOWN PIRATES, and subsequently for policing the waters effectively. In view of the fact that the datory hands are as much at home on land in their boats on the rivers, such an arrangement would have the additional advantage of leaving the local Chinese authorities civil and military, free to devote their attention to the pursuit and capture of the pirates they made good their escape on shore.

After considerable argument could the local authorities be brought to realize how serious the British Government viewed the situation and to instruct Viceroy Chow Fu to put himself in communication with the Customs Commissioner of Customs. In reply came the objections to the effect that, China's own rights would be impaired and that it would be a bad principle to encourage the local authorities to neglect their responsibilities for the maintenance of peace and order. As the negotiation were opened twelve days ago, it may be inferred that a considerable amount of insistence has been required to persuade the Chinese authorities to take up the lines indicated by the British Government for the protection of foreign shipping, for that Peking has proved too strong for the new Canton Viceroy has let slip the negotiation, and the objections raised against the scheme in public meeting bear a still closer resemblance to the official arguments of the 20th.

As in Chinkiang, so in Kwangtung the nominal direction against foreign interests in Chinese affairs in reality marks the phase in the struggle now begun between the Central Government and the Provincial arguments can be adduced to prove that CHINA'S SOVEREIGNTY RIGHTS can possibly be affected by instructions. Customs officers engaged in the prevention of smuggling to turn their attention to pirates. On the other hand dealing with the pirates in more senses than of hitherto been the concern of the provincial authorities. Baste for their suppression, seized on paper, and the work of after the desperadoes, who to a large extent are consuming themselves in their own quarrels, has presumably proved to be

which he did in a few minutes. He then ran to the window and shouted for help. Subsequently rushed upstairs to learn if his wife and family had been harmed. His blood-stained and battered appearance gave them fright, and while Mr. Li called for help from his wife called in the neighbour.

Nothing could be done at that late hour, and next morning, Mr. Li reported the outrage to the District Magistrate, who caused inquiry to be made, but with no results. It was discovered later that one of the men, who was supposed to have been implicated in the outrage, had taken passage to Hongkong. The police authorities were notified, with the result that a man named Chak Wong was arrested at the Central district on suspicion. The suspect was arraigned at the Police Court to-day, and the case was remanded for a week.

RAUB CRUSHING.

Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. inform us that they are in receipt of telegraphic advices from Singapore informing them that the crushing of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Co. Ltd., for the past period yielded, 1,102 ozs. from 5,141 tons of stone.

THE FEDERAL COURT OF ALABAMA HAS ISSUED AN INJUNCTION AGAINST THE APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT UNDER THE MINE ACT.

The injunction has been adopted by the State Legislature.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT GRANT PROSECUTED THE WANG, GUN MERCHANT AT 259, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, AT THE POLICE COURT, THIS MORNING REMOVING 20,000 rounds of ammunition from his shop, yesterday, without a permit, and for neglecting to enter in his books the particulars of his stock of ammunition. It appears that he accused a friend the ammunition to certain "men" in the Colony who had no authority in possession of guns. The ammunition was purchased for the sole purpose of shooting an alleged leopard left loose by a certain ship on Kai Chau Island. The case was remanded. --- THE 25th graduation ceremony of the Imperial Naval College at Etchujima was held on Wednesday, 20th ult., morning at 10.30 a.m. presided over by his Imperial Highness Prince Hiroyoshi-Fushimi, on behalf of the Emperor. There were present a large number of distinguished officers and officials, amongst whom were seen Admiral Count Yamamoto, Admiral Baron Saito, Minister for the Navy. The students who have graduated this year number 137, all of whom have been appointed lieutenants and are to embark on board cruisers "Ichidake," "Mikazuki," and "Idzumi," which compose a training squadron. These vessels will start on a training cruise early in January.

to days' sight Sydney and Melbourne	2.10
4 months' sight France	2.50
4 months' sight	2.60
4 months' sight Germany	2.12
Bar Silver	26 1/2
Bank of England rate	7 1/2
Bank of France	51 1/2
Sovereign	0.85

THE WEATHER.

The following report is from Mr. F. G. Flagg, Director of the Hongkong Observatory:—

On the 3rd at 12.05 p.—The barometer has fallen over China, slightly in the South, and considerably in the North.

A depression is probably moving Eastward over Manchuria.

The high pressure area remains over the continent to the North of the Upper Yangtze, but gradients are somewhat easier along the China coast.

Strong monsoon may be expected in the Formosa Channel and the China Sea.

Hongkong Rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.00 inches.

FORECAST.

- 1.—Hongkong and neighbourhood, N. winds moderate or fresh, fine.
- 2.—Formosa Channel, N.E. winds, strong.
- 3.—South coast of China between Hongkong and Lamecks, same as No. 1.
- 4.—South coast of China between Hongkong and Hainan, N. winds, fresh or strong.

As the result of a complaint lodged at police headquarters some days ago, two Chinamen were arrested yesterday on charges of buying stolen goods. These were Chan Chai, a teller man, residing at 32, Gilman Bazaar, and Yeung Hong, a shopkeeper, of 34, Elgin Street. The first accused was charged with receiving of case of P. and O. whisky, valued at \$13, on case of port wine, valued at \$24.50, and in bottles of claret, valued at \$3.67, well knowing the same to have been stolen, and the second defendant with receiving four bottles of whisky which he knew had been stolen. Messrs. Blackhead and Company, from whom the goods had been stolen, were the complainants. The case was remanded.

SHIPPING AND MAILS.

MAILS DUT.

Indian (*Kanamaru*) 4th Inst.

German (*Yorck*) 4th Inst. night.

The Boston S. S. Co.'s s.s. *Frederick* sails on 2nd inst. at 4 p.m. and is due back on 5th inst., at daylight.


HONGKONG, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1907

TAXATION IN JAPAN.

A joint conference of the Cabinet and the Elder-Statesmen is to be held in a few days as our readers are aware, and the question to be considered thereat is the proposed increase of taxation, thus states the *Yokohama Chronicle*. The financial condition of Japan has been considerably strained as a result of its post-bellum programme, and heavy as the burden of taxation has been felt to be during the progress of the recent war, it now appears that the adjustment of the Budget calls for still heavier burden upon the people of the Island Kingdom. It is reported, according to our Kobe contemporary, that the Government is not at all inclined to effect any alteration in its programme of projected works, and holds the opinion that any such alteration would impede the progress of the Empire. That is the outward reason, says *Asahi*, but as a matter of fact there is a political aspect of the question. Any attempt to effect an alteration or amendment of the projected works would precipitate the downfall of the Cabinet. The "projected" works which are now being carried out were approved during the last session of the Diet, originating in the Budget for last year, and approved by the Diet during the preceding session. The Budget in question was framed by the Katsura Cabinet, and was taken over by the present Saionji Cabinet. From the first it was stated that to carry out the proposed

Mails

MESSAGERIES
MARITIMES
FRENCH MAIL STEAMERS



**THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL
STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.**

**STREAM FOR
STRAITS, ORYXON, AUSTRALIA, INDIA
ADEN, EGYPT, MEDITERRANEAN
PORTS, PLYMOUTH AND
LONDON.**

(Through Bills of Lading issued for BATAVIA,
PERSIAN GULF, CONTINENTAL, AMERI-
CAN and SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.)

THE Steamship
"MALTA"

Captain R. A. Peters, carrying His Majesty's Mails, will be despatched from Hongkong for BOMBAY, &c., on SATURDAY, the 14 December, at Noon, taking Passengers and Cargo for the above Ports, in connection with the Company's S.S. *Moldavia*, 9,700 tons, from Colombo. Passengers' accommodation in which vessel is secured before departure from Hongkong.

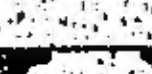
Silk and Valuable, all Cargo for France and Tea for London, (under arrangements) will be transhipped at Colombo into the Mail steamer proceeding direct to Marseilles. London, other Cargo for London, &c., will be conveyed from Bombay by the R.M.S. *Perdue* in London on 25th January, 1908.

Parcels will be received at this Office until 4 P.M. the day before sailing. The Contents and Value of all Packages are required.

For further Particulars, apply to

E. A. HEWETT,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 30th November, 1907.



SPECIAL FOR SAIGON,
 SINGAPORE, BATAVIA,
 COLOMBO, CALCUTTA,
 BOMBAY, ADEN, DJI-
 BOUTI, EGYPT, MAR-
 SEILLES, LONDON,

**HAYRE, BORDEAUX, MEDITERRANEAN AND
BLACK SEA PORTS.**

The S.S. "POLYNESIEN,"
Captain Broc, will be dispatched for

MARSEILLES on TUESDAY, the 10th
December, at 1 P.M.
This Steamer connects at Colombo with the

Australian line s.s. *Vello de la Glor* bound
for Marseilles via Bombay and Aden.
- Passage tickets and through Bills of Lading

Cargo also booked for principal places in Europe.

Next sailings will be as follows:—
S.S. TOURANE 24th Dec.
S.S. ARMAND BEHIC ... 7th Jan., 1928.
S.S. CALATIE 21st Jan., 1928.

G. DE CHAMPEAUX,
Agent.

REGULAR STEAMSHIP SERVICE

TO NEW YORK,
ALL PORTS AND SUEZ CANAL

(With Liberty to Call at Malabar Coast.)

PROPOSED SAILING FROM HONGKONG.

FOR BOSTON AND NEW YORK.

For Freight and further information, apply to
10 J. B. BARNES & CO. LIMITED

Hongkong, 5th October, 1907

Intimations.

ACHEE & CO

ESTABLISHED 1859

FURNITURE

DEPOT

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD

... FOR ...

REQUISITES

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KODAKS, FILMS,

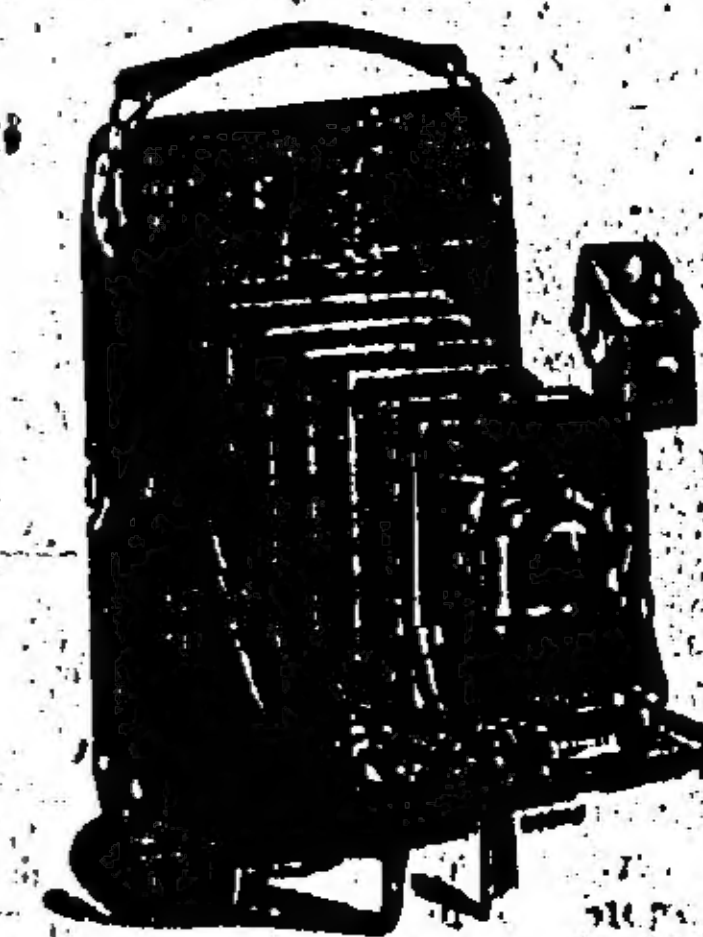
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Telephone 25

ACCESSORIES

ALL YOUR WORK RECEIVES PROMPT AND CAREFUL ATTENTION

Hongkong, 16th May, 1904



Dewar's 'Imperial'

The
Whisky
without
an
equal

Sole Agents. BUMANN & BERBLINGER.

16, 18 & 17. Connaught Road Central